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SPIRITS OF VENOM PART 3

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN

GUEST-STARRING: GHOST RIDER!® JOHN BLAZE! VENOM!™

TEX

30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™

SPIRITS OF VENOM PART 3

ENEMIES: A HATE STORY

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THESE DEATHSPAWN ARE ALL OVER ME... PULLED ME AWAY FROM GHOST RIDER, BLAZE AND THE OTHERS*...

...SO MANY OF THEM... CRUSHING ME.

GOT TO GET OUT.

*SEE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5. -- DANNY

NEED ROOM TO MANEUVER...

...TO BREATHE!

THWIP

JUST HANG IN THERE, FATHER...

...I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE AND SAFE IN NO TIME!

YEAH, RIGHT!

I'M ON THESE *THINGS'* HOME GROUND, OUTNUMBERED AND EXHAUSTED FROM MY FIGHT WITH *DEMO-GOBLIN* AND THE *DOPPELGANGER*.

AND, EVEN IF I DO GET THE FATHER OUT OF HERE, I'VE GOT TO COME BACK DOWN HERE.

THESE THINGS HAVE A BUNCH OF *INNOCENT HOSTAGES* THEY INTEND TO USE AS FOOD TO BRING THEIR *DEMONIC* LEADER, *DEATHWATCH*, BACK TO LIFE.*

PLUS, *MACENDALE* IS DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE. EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT MY FAVORITE PERSON, I CAN'T LET *HIM* DIE, EITHER.

NOT TO MENTION THAT *VENOM* IS LURKING AROUND SOMEWHERE, WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO *EAT MY BRAINS*.

GEEZ! MY LIFE IS *NEVER* SIMPLE!

*SEE *SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5* FOR MORE DETAILS. -- DANNY

GREAT! I PULLED US FREE...

...BUT UNLESS I CAN CLEAR US A PATH OUT OF HERE, THEY'RE GOING TO PULL US RIGHT BACK DOWN.

I COULD USE BLAZE'S HELLFIRE SHOOTING GUN RIGHT ABOUT NOW...!

THE FIRE BLAZE CAUSED BY THE GAS MAIN EXPLOSION WORKED FOR HIM!*

*S.O.V. #5, NATCH. -- D.

LET'S SEE IF A LITTLE HIGH PRESSURE *WATER* WILL DO THE TRICK FOR ME...!

SAY A PRAYER THAT THIS *WORKS*, FATHER.

WE'LL KILL THE *SPIDER* AND *ANY* WHO STAND IN OUR WAY.

WE'LL KILL *HAG* AND *TROLL* FOR WHAT THEY DID TO THE *GUARDSMEN.*

KILL ALL THESE *DEATHSPAWN* BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE ANY MORE INNOCENT LIVES!

KILL...

THIS LOOKS INTERESTING.

STOP, MINDLESS ONE.

NOW THAT I HAVE FREED US FROM THESE PITIFUL DEMONIC BONDS, *MACENDALE* IS MINE.

DON'T KILL ME! ALL *YOUR* DEMONIC BLOOD IS OUT OF ME.

I'LL *SIN* NO MORE!

THAT IS *NOT* ENOUGH.

ONLY THROUGH THE *PAIN OF DEATH* WILL THE DEMONIC TAINT BE CLEANSED.

IT IS MY DESTINY TO RID THIS AND ALL WORLDS OF EVERY TRACE OF DEMONIC BLOOD!

NOOO!

SCREAM, SINNER...

...BUT KNOW THAT YOUR PLEAS FOR MERCY FALL ON DEAF EARS.

BUT IT WAS *YOUR* BLOOD. YOUR *TAINT*. IT'S OUT OF ME NOW. *YOU'RE* OUT OF ME...

...NOOOW!

IT IS NOT ENOUGH!

THE SECT OF DEMONS TO WHICH I BELONG LONG AGO SAW HOW VILE DEMON-KIND IS!

LOOKY HERE! *SPIDER-MANIA*--

--NOT THE REAL THING, BUT AN INCREDIBLE *SIMUL-ATION!*

WE BECAME THE PIOUS. THE RIGHTEOUS.

OUR VOW IS TO WIPE OUT *ALL* DEMON-KIND.

AFTER ALL DEMONS ARE PURGED FROM ALL EXISTENCE ONLY *WE* SHALL BE LEFT.

THEN WE SHALL BEGIN ERADICATING OURSELVES.

ONLY *ONE* SHALL LIVE. ONLY ONE SHALL BE ELEVATED TO SOMETHING MORE THAN A *DEMON.* ONLY ONE SHALL BE *REDEEMED.*

THAT ONE SHALL BE *ME!*

AND I CANNOT ALLOW ANY *STRAY TRACE* OF ME TO BE LEFT BEHIND.

AND THIS IS WHY *YOU* MUST *DIE!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE TUNNELS THAT RUN BENEATH MID-TOWN MANHATTAN...

GHOST RIDER! I'VE GOT THE REST OF THIS GROUP OF DEATHSPAWN ON THE RUN...

HOLD ON TO THE ONE...

...AND I'LL GIVE IT A TASTE OF OLD FASHIONED HELLFIRE!

NO, BLAZE!

THIS ONE WE WILL KEEP ALIVE.

WE WILL NEED IT TO LEAD US TO THE HUMANS THEY INTEND TO USE AS FOOD.

OH SURE, YOU BE THE COOL-HEADED ONE THIS TIME...

...BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE TOO CO-OPERATIVE!

IF THERE IS A FRAGMENT OF A SOUL IN THIS CREATURE THEN...

THE *PENANCE STARE* WILL SEAR IT!

IT WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF ITS VICTIMS.

IT WILL DO AS WE COMMAND.

I GUESS NOT, EH?

ELSEWHERE IN THE MAZE OF TUNNELS...

FATHER, WE'VE LOST THE DEATH-SPAWN FOR NOW, BUT...

...I'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE AND TO SAFETY.

NO. THE *OTHERS!* INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THOSE CREATURES-- INTENDED TO BE USED AS FOOD...

YOU... *WE* HAVE GOT TO HELP THEM.

YOU ARE THEIR BEST CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL, AND I WILL *NOT* ALLOW MYSELF TO INTERFERE.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, FATHER! WE'LL GET *EVERYONE* OUT OF HERE. JUST CALM...

...DOWN.

FATHER! WAIT HERE!

SOMETHING'S GOING ON UP AHEAD.

BOOM BOOM

I THINK WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE FIGHT.

THWIP

BLAZE! GHOST RIDER! WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

START KICKING SOME *DEMON* BUTT!

THEY SEEM TO HAVE TO TAKE *SOLID FORM* BEFORE THEY CAN DO ANY REAL DAMAGE

KNOWING THAT GIVES US A BIT OF AN *EDGE*!

YEAH, I WAS GETTING TIRED OF SHADOW BOXING THESE THINGS!

HOW DID YOU FIND EVERYONE?

TURNS OUT MY FLAMING SKULLED FRIEND HAS GOOD EARS.

HE PICKED UP ON THEIR SCREAMING.

THE *DEATHSPAWN* SEEM TO BE IN SOME SORT OF A FEEDING FRENZY!

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE THEY SNATCHED OFF THE STREETS.

FATHER...?

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT THIS TO *US!*

I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!

THWIP

WOULD *YOU* HAVE STAYED AWAY IF YOU THOUGHT THERE WAS *ANYTHING* THAT YOU COULD HAVE DONE?

IF EVEN *ONE* LIFE COULD BE SAVED BY MY BEING HERE, THEN, EVEN AT THE RISK OF MY OWN, I HAD TO *TRY!*

POINT TAKEN, FATHER.

THE PEOPLE ARE SAFE FOR NOW, BUT WE MUST GET THEM *OUT* OF HERE!

IF *YOU* HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS, I'M ALL EARS!

HMMM... MAYBE...

...IF GHOST RIDER CAN JUST KEEP THEM BACK FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!

THWIP

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

WE DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO STOP THEM...

...BUT WE CAN SLOW THEM DOWN!

I GOT YOU! LET'S SEE IF I CAN LEND A HAND.

FATHER--GET EVERYONE *BACK* AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

OKAY, GHOST RIDER, BLAZE HAS WEAKENED THE CEILING...

TCHINK

...NOW IT'S UP TO *US!*

LET'S DO IT!

KRAK

BLAZE...

MOVE!

NICE. THIS TIME WE CREATED A BARRIER BETWEEN THEM AND US.

WATCH OUT.

BOOM

ALL WE'VE DONE IS SLOW THEM DOWN.

WE MUST GET THE PRIEST AND THE OTHER TO SAFETY BEFORE WE CAN COME BACK FOR *DEATHWATCH* AND HIS SPAWN.

COME BACK? I THOUGHT MAYBE...

NOOOOOOOOO

MACENDALE.

IT HAS TO BE *DEMOGOBLIN* AND THE *DOPPEL-GANGER*. THEY'RE *KILLING* HIM! I'VE GOT TO *HELP* HIM!

WHAT ARE YOU-- *CRAZY*?

MACENDALE ISN'T *WORTH* IT! THESE PEOPLE NEED US TO GET THEM OUT OF HERE.

AND, NEED I REMIND YOU, *VENOM* IS LURKING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE AFTER *YOUR BRAINS*!?!

ONE LIFE IS AS IMPORTANT AS EVERY OTHER. RIGHT, FATHER?

YOU HAVE MY PRAYERS.

ELSEWHERE...

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

NOW, SINNER...

...YOUR SUFFERING *ENDS*...

...ALONG WITH YOUR LIFE! AND MY REDEMPTION BEGINS!

THWIP

MAYBE YOUR REDEMPTION CAN BEGIN ANOTHER DAY?

BWAM

YOU AGAIN? MINDLESS ONE, COME ASSIST ME!

WHOA--!

YOUR PUPPY COULDN'T DEFEAT *US*, *DEMOGOBLIN*.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET *YOU* KILL *SPIDER-MAN*.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SPIDER-MAN. DO WITH HIM AS YOU WISH.

AND LET ME FINISH WITH MY *HOLY MISSION*.

THANKS, KILLER, BUT AFTER I'M DONE EATING SPIDER-MAN'S SPLEEN...

...I'M COMING FOR YOU.

'CAUSE I'M THAT KIND OF GUY!

NOW, SPIDER, COME TAKE YOUR MEDICINE LIKE-- *AAARGH!*

VRRT

YOU AGAIN!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO KEEP YOU OUT OF OUR WAY?

HERE...

...GO PLAY WITH YOUR BOSS WHILE *WE* ATTEND TO BUSINESS!

NO! YOU HAVE DIVERTED MY *SACRED* KILLING BLOW!

LOOKS LIKE YOUR FLUNKY HAS TAKEN THE BRUNT OF WHATEVER MAGIC WAS IN YOUR HANDS...

...TOO BAD!

HERE'S MY OWN *SACRED* BLOW TO SHOW YOU WHAT I THINK OF YOUR TWISTED *HOLY MISSION!*

YOU DARE MOCK ME?

YOU *DARE* *MOCK* MY MISSION?!

YES...

...I DARE!

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF *VILLAINS* WITH A *MISSION!*

SICK OF YOUR RATIONAL-IZATIONS FOR KILLING!

SICK OF ALL OF YOU.

YOU WILL DIE FOR YOUR MOCKERY.

YOU WILL...

WHAT?

THE DEMONS SEEK TO PULL ME DOWN.

THEY WILL BE TAUGHT THE WAY OF THE HARSH LESSON OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS.

THEY WILL...

I'M READY TO GO TO JAIL NOW.

GOOD, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

THIS NIGHTMARE IS OVER.

NOT JUST YET.

OH, BOY.

YOU DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT US, DID YOU?

WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH YOU!

YEAH, YEAH! I KNOW...

...YOU WANT TO EAT MY BRAINS!

WELL, EAT THIS FIRST!

WE WILL!

WE'LL DEVOUR EVERY INCH OF YOUR CORRUPT BODY AND SPIT IT BACK OUT! WE WILL FINALLY HAVE OUR *VENGEANCE*.

VENGEANCE FOR ALL THE *INNOCENTS* THAT YOU HAVE HURT!

THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, BROCK... YOU *TALK* ABOUT AVENGING INNOCENT LIVES, BUT ALL YOU'RE INTERESTED IN IS *HURTING* AND *KILLING*!

YOU WENT OVER THE EDGE A LONG *TIME* AGO AND I DOUBT THAT YOU'LL *EVER* BE ABLE TO COME BACK.

ME, I'VE COME CLOSE TO THAT EDGE. I'VE LOOKED OVER IT. AND I DIDN'T *LIKE* WHAT I *SAW* ON THE OTHER SIDE... WHAT I SAW WAS *YOU!*

ALL YOUR WORDS WON'T MAKE YOU ANY BETTER A FIGHTER.

WE ARE IN THE RIGHT.

YOU MUST *DIE!*

TCHINK

AAACK!

GO, SPIDER-MAN.

HELP *BLAZE* LEAD THE INNOCENTS FROM THIS PLACE.

I WILL DEAL WITH *VENOM*.

COME ON, MACENDALE, NOW IT REALLY IS OVER.

YOU'RE WRONG, SPIDER-MAN...

...IT WON'T BE OVER BETWEEN US UNTIL YOUR *CORPSE* IS ROTTING IN THE SUN.

...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

RRRRRR

YOU'RE RIGHT, VENOM. THIS THING BETWEEN US HAS GOT TO BE FINISHED...

GHOST RIDER!

THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR BUSINESS.

TO BE *CONCLUDED* IN *SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #6!*

AND BE *HERE* NEXT MONTH FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE EXCITEMENT LEADING UP TO *WEB #100* AS *RICHARD FISK* AND THE *BLOOD ROSE* RETURN!!!